

SENATE BILL 2706

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, relative to law enforcement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) The Tennessee student assistance corporation (TSAC) shall
administer a law enforcement fellows program for talented Tennesseans who
aspire to be law enforcement officers.

(2) Participation in the law enforcement fellows program is limited to
students:

(A) Enrolled in a postsecondary degree program in this state that
furtheres the student's knowledge in law enforcement; and

(B) Who pledge to work as a law enforcement officer in this state
for at least one (1) year.

(3) Recipients must maintain continuous enrollment in a degree program
leading to a career as a law enforcement officer in a higher education institution
within this state.

(4) Each fellowship award is in the amount of five thousand dollars
(\$5,000) and is renewable up to three (3) times, contingent upon satisfactory
academic progress.

(5)

(A) Recipients who become law enforcement officers in this state shall receive forgiveness of the fellowship balance based on one (1) year's law enforcement service for each year the fellowship was awarded.

(B) TSAC shall forgive the loan if, within seven (7) years after graduation, the recipient works as a law enforcement officer in this state for three (3) consecutive years, unless the recipient takes an approved leave of absence. TSAC shall also forgive the loan because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient.

(b)

(1) TSAC, in conjunction with the state board of education and the Tennessee higher education commission, shall promulgate rules for the selection of students pursuing a career in law enforcement and for the management of the program.

(2) All scholarship loans must be evidenced by notes made payable to TSAC, which must bear interest at the rate of nine percent (9%) per year beginning September 1 after completion of the program, or immediately after termination of the scholarship loan, whichever is earlier. The scholarship loan may be terminated by the recipient withdrawing from school or by the recipient not meeting the standards set by TSAC.

(c) As used in this section, "law enforcement officer" means any police officer of a Tennessee municipality, any commissioned member of the department of safety, the wildlife resources agency, or the Tennessee bureau of investigation, and any Tennessee county sheriff or deputy sheriff actually engaged in law enforcement, or any correctional officer employed by the department of correction or the department of children's services.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.